



Bridgwater Town Council

Portfolio:	Climate and Environment
Portfolio Holder Name:	Cllr Kathy Pearce
Full Council Meeting Date:	14 th March 2024
Agenda Item:	TC2024/22

Report:

- 1. Parks and Open Spaces:** Work is well underway to transfer parks and open spaces to the Town Council on 1st May, including the Meads (see Town Clerk's Recommendation). New grounds' maintenance equipment has been purchased and recruitment is taking place this month.
- 2. Street Cleaning:** As above. A new road sweeper has been purchased with additional capacity to clean benches/road signs etc.
- 3. Cemeteries:**

Bristol Road: Work is progressing on extending Bristol Road Cemetery. A contractor has been appointed to design the layout based on our requirements. Due to the high water table on this area of land, the Environment Agency has only authorised internments and scattering of ashes in this section. The new bulb planting is looking particularly good, as are the ornamental pear trees planted 2 years ago.

Easter Book of Remembrance: Following the success of the Christmas Memorial Tree, the Quantock Road Chapel will be open over the Easter period for tributes to be paid to loved ones in the Book of Remembrance (opening times to be published shortly).

Quantock Road Cemetery Filtration Pond: The pond is in need of restoration. A meeting took place with Joe May of Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) to discuss how we replant and maintain the pond to maximise the wildlife potential. Water testing will take place before any action is taken.
- 4. Allotments:** A well-attended meeting of allotment holders took place on 26th February. An excellent presentation was given on bee keeping by an allotment holder, which reinforced the importance of maintaining good bio-diversity for bee/insect life and pollination of crops, along with historical and medicinal facts. There were a number of issues raised, including allotment fencing and thefts from allotments. New fencing to be installed at Alexandra Road and Taunton Road sites.
Lorna and Amy had designed a new Allotments Newsletter for allotment holders, full of useful and interesting information. There was interest to hold community type events on the allotments (seed swaps etc).
- 5. Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) Energy Advice Drop-ins:** These are progressing well at community centres/pantries across the town. Feedback from the community has been very positive.
- 6. Seed Swap:** To take place on Saturday 23rd March at the Engine Room, 11am-2pm, to coincide with the monthly repair shop. Any proceeds to the Flower Show Committee and the Engine Room.



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Recommendations: (if you are expecting Council to make a decision from your report)

None